

DRAFT

2015 AGM MINUTES TORONTO – narrative form

Anthroposophical Society in Canada (ASC)

Rudolf Steiner Foundation (RSF)

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Saturday 16 May 2015, 8.30am-3.15pm, Toronto Waldorf School, Thornhill, Ontario

Chair: Dorothy LeBaron (Interim President March-May 2015)

Agenda

Eurythmy

Let's Hear From You

General Secretary's Address

Foundation Stone Meditation

Members who died and New Members, 2014/15

Business Meeting

1. Quorum
2. Minutes AGM 2014
3. Business Arising from Minutes
4. Review of Council Activities 2014-15
5. Administrator of Membership and Communications
6. Treasurer's Report, Presentation of Financial Statements and Budget
7. Presentation of Councillors and Officers
8. AGM 2016
9. Other Business
10. Conversation/Questions
11. Meeting adjournment

EURYTHMY

8.30-9.15am With Maria Helms; verse and movement for 'working together' and 'care of each other's soul' prepared us for our meeting.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

Around circle, each member/friend introduced themselves, with brief description of area of interest.

GENERAL SECRETARY (GS) ADDRESS

Arie van Ameringen (GS) expanded on 'theme for year': "Know your self and your self will know the world; know the world and the world will become your self". 100 years since founding of Anthroposophical Society; are we connected to everyday life? He spoke of how things are changing at the Goetheanum: what the General Secretaries do when they meet; financial challenge there connected with Swiss franc value; progress of renovations. Of Anthroposophy around world and in Canada – in travelling across country far scattered "little stars" of anthroposophical activity. Three questions coming from Youth Section: 'Can Anthroposophy heal something any more?' 'What is spiritual science?' How can I use Anthroposophy in my professional life?' Arie announced Meditation book by Heinz Zimmermann soon to be available, ASC helping with translation costs, we need this instruction. As we work towards the 100th year of the Society, where are we practically? Preparations for 2016 August conference in Ottawa –

‘Encountering Our Humanity’ – are well under way by committee made up of General Secretary, Council and other Society members from Ottawa, Toronto and Quebec.

FOUNDATION STONE MEDITATION

Read in English by Council Member John Bach.

MEMBERS WHO DIED AND NEW MEMBERS 2014-15

Names read by John Bach of Members who died and new Members 2014-15. Those who died: Gerhard Rudolph; Maria Linneman; Lloyd Pelech. New Members: Sandra Lanoue; Karen Holmes; Trisha Sveistrup; Georgette Alary; Melina Marin.

Business Meeting

1. QUORUM

Quorum was confirmed and maintained throughout meeting.

2. MINUTES

Notice was mailed to Members 21 days prior to AGM 2015 that Minutes of AGM 2014 (Vancouver) were posted on Members’ website, print copy available for Members on request from Administrator.

Acceptance of Minutes for AGM 2014: proposed by Philip Thatcher, seconded by Monique Walsh. Accepted unanimously.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Council brings question of proxy vote to Members: Until 1988 proxy vote was possible, then it was decided it was no longer working. We received question from Member at 2014 AGM whether we should now reinstate proxy voting on account of size of Canada and ability of Members to travel to AGM. Jeffrey Saunders (Administrator) gave short description of how proxy vote might work. New Act (2013?) for non-profit organizations encourages fuller membership participation in decision-making.

Resolution: Jeffrey Saunders to continue to research the question of proxy voting and share his research with Council; Council to decide whether to bring resolution to AGM 2016 for changing bylaw to include proxy voting at annual general meetings.

4. REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES 2014-15

Dorothy LeBaron presented the year’s activities of Council: AGM 2014 in Vancouver, Dennis Klocek conference speaker ‘From a Cosmos of Wisdom to a Cosmos of Love’. (Jean Balekian had returned in February 2014 from six months’ leave of absence.) During year 2014/15 Mark McAlister stepped out of Administrator role after seven years; Council and Mark worked together to define and clarify position. Jeffrey Saunders hired as Membership and Communications Administrator starting in March 2015. New bylaw accepted, resolution approved at AGM May 2014 to apply for Certificate of Continuance under Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act; this was done June 2014. Society supports conferences: Virginia Sease gave lectures in Montreal Summer 2014; Bodo von Plato to present ‘Meditation’ Summer 2015 in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver; preparation underway for Conference August 2016 ‘Encountering Our Humanity’ in Ottawa. Council October 2014 meetings in Nova Scotia (last there 2003): met Members and friends, visited South Shore Waldorf School, Watershed (bio-dynamic) Farm, geology field trip, Halifax public Eurythmy and ‘Meditation’ lecture. Decision made to fund Canadian representative of General Anthroposophical Section to North American Collegium twice/year; met Class Holders re process; in future Council to collaborate with Class Holders on such decisions. Society funds annual meeting of Council and Class Holders

(to which one or two US Class Holders may come), unique to Canada. We worked with Members across Canada on wording of Purpose Statement (incorporated 1953) asking 'Has purpose of ASC changed?' – now progressed to seven sentences. Another working with words has been for– we have struggled with wording to find middle ground between individual freedom and legal requirement for 'Steward Agreements', financial agreements with branches', groups' and individual projects. Society has contributed to costs for French translation of Anthroposophy World Wide for Canadian French-speaking members (52?). Ongoing Council work for several years is National Society Library, which in times past served all Canada; with changes, in practice it is no longer national and is minimally used; Council having looked at results of questionnaire sent to Members before previous AGM in Toronto (2012), local group of interested Members including a Council member took up question of how to go forward; the idea of a learning centre arose; at recent meeting, stakeholders (Council, local Members, Hesperus) heard that 'learning centre' does not at this time need physical space, though idea still lives; it is clear that library books must be moved out of Hesperus basement; Council resolved to catalogue and sort books, make list to put online, and, in consultation with Hesperus management, move them to smaller space temporarily, for one-year transition, during which Council will invite local offers to care for the library as is, or, if there is no offer, will disperse the books responsibly. Council is actively seeking new Councillors, with Douglas Wylie and Judith King completing seven-year terms at AGM 2016 as Treasurer and Secretary, need for another Councillor in Quebec. Council has run into difficulties with establishment of public website, which should be up and running by fall. Members' Website Mark McAlister initiated to be linked up with new website. Society financially supports Members' initiatives directly or by underwriting. Council is in communication with Ariel-Paul Saunders, North American Collegium representative for Youth Section.

At Council meeting in March 2015 in Quebec Jean Balekian resigned as President and member of Council; shock and disappointment, crisis moment for Council; reason partly to do with what underlies the struggle to find middle ground between legal requirement and individual freedom for financial agreements within ASC, partly due to ill health. We worked well together; now Council asks 'What changes do we need to make, in response to this strong gesture?' We thank Jean sincerely, and acknowledge what he brought to the Society and to Council in our way of working together.

Douglas Wylie adds: ASC is currently looking at a collaborative financial arrangement with AWSNA, for their proposed project to bring anthroposophy into Waldorf schools in North America.

5. ADMINISTRATOR OF MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mark McAlister was thanked for his dedicated work as Administrator for seven years, and for helping to develop the position, working with Council. There was a rousing ovation from Members present to thank him! He spoke briefly in response, particularly pointing out his disappointment regarding how much effort it takes to collect some Members' yearly contributions. Jeffrey Saunders was welcomed; he took up the position of Membership and Communications Administrator in March.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT – PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2014 AND BUDGET 2015-16

Notice was mailed to Members to arrive 21 days prior to AGM, that Financial Statements for 2014 and draft Budget for 2015-16 had been posted on Members' website; print copy available on request from Administrator. Treasurer Douglas Wylie presented ASC 2014 Financial Statements and proposed 2015-16 Budget, going through point by point; presented also (minimally active) Financial Statements of Rudolf Steiner Foundation. Review Engagement of ASC 2014 Financial Statements is being carried out this year.

Questions: ---Robert MacKay asks purpose of keeping inactive RSF open, should it be shut down? ---Elisabeth Chomko: What if Budget does not balance? Treasurer: we use 'reserves' – see 'Reserve Fund' on Balance Sheet. ---Hamo Hammond follows up to ask about this 'idle' money; ie 2016 Conference will be looking for much funding. ---D'Arcy Mackenzie suggests capital can get clogged; youth could be helped, for conferences.

Acceptance of ASC Financial Statements for 2014: proposed by Reinhard Rosch, seconded by D'Arcy Mackenzie. Accepted. 1 abstention (Sybille Hahn abstained from all decisions relating to financial documents, she was unaware how to access financial documents.**note for 2016.*

Acceptance of Rudolf Steiner Foundation Financial Statements for 2014: proposed by Ingrid Belenson, seconded by Diana Hughes. Accepted. 1 abstention.

Acceptance of proposed Budget for 2015-16: proposed by Hans Rosch, seconded by George Ivanov. Accepted. 1 abstention.

Confirmation of Accountants, Clarke & Kaprielian: proposed by D'Arcy Mackenzie, seconded by Reinhard Rosch. Confirmed.

Contingency Motion for changing Accountant during year if necessary: proposed by Jakob Ghaznavi, seconded by Timothy Cox. Accepted.

7. PRESENTATION OF COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

Monique Walsh presented proposed Councillors for 2015/16. Members asked to affirm Councillors for 2015/16 by show of hands, as introduced:

John Bach, Council Member for 2015/16: proposed Beth Currie, seconded Siobhan Hughes. Affirmed unanimously.

Douglas Wylie, Council Member for 2015/16: proposed D'Arcy Mackenzie, seconded Reinhard Rosch. Affirmed unanimously.

Dorothy LeBaron, Council Member for 2015/16: proposed Ingrid Wharton ?(or Belenson?), seconded Elisabeth Chomko. Affirmed unanimously.

Judith King, Council Member for 2015/16: proposed Arthur Osmond, seconded Hans Rosch. Affirmed unanimously.

Members were asked to affirm Officers for 2015/16 by show of hands, as introduced:

Dorothy LeBaron, President, Chair of Council, for 2015/16: proposed by Timothy Cox, seconded by Diane Denhart. Affirmed unanimously.

Douglas Wylie, Treasurer for 2015/16: proposed by D'Arcy Mackenzie, seconded by Sybille Hahn. Affirmed unanimously.

Judith King, Secretary for 2015/16: proposed by Sybille Hahn, seconded by Ingrid Wharton. Affirmed unanimously.

"Great warm thank you" proposed for Council!

8. AGM 2016

Next Annual General Meeting to be in Montreal, 21 May 2016.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There were two pre-arranged presentations:

a) Vidar Foundation presented by Ingrid Belenson, director. Non-profit organization initiated 2003 to help organizations financially, out of anthroposophy; now five projects, including South Shore Waldorf School, NS, which has mortgage facilitated by Vidar for acquiring property. School has been on for fifteen years. Vidar has six directors including Reinhard Rosch, Treasurer. Next step, directors are looking for younger people with more expertise to join Vidar Foundation board.

b) Nova Scotia Group presented by Jim White, Treasurer. Pleased to have Council visit last fall, when NS Group presented project of borrowing/lending community, which facilitates fundraising for new classrooms for the South Shore Waldorf School; inspired by idea in Bochem, Germany; makes capital expenditure for classrooms possible through small ongoing monthly donations from many members and friends of school community; two classrooms now in use were able to be built in this way. Brief dramatization was performed, with stakeholders! Douglas Wylie pointed out that government is also a stakeholder. And now Vidar is helping the School community with a mortgage on the property it has occupied for fifteen years.

10. CONVERSATION/QUESTIONS

---Mark McAlister wishes to formally acknowledge the voluntary translation work of Eric Philips-Oxford; Eric translates into French (or English) all Glimpses articles, as well as letters to Members, and more. He is always willing, and unstinting of his time. We give him a huge Thank You!

---Reinhard Rosch: when Reinhard was Treasurer for the Christian Community in North America he traveled to many communities; he wonders of the possibility of harnessing different anthroposophical organizations to work in smaller communities together, could support community building, or supporting young people who have need, ie need for land in bio-dynamic movement: in a town/city of 10-30,000 with market for bio-dynamic products, Vidar could be a tool to help young people rent or acquire land.

---In response, Mark wonders why it is so difficult to help larger organizations – while Vidar can do the valuable work of helping transform and grow smaller communities – how can larger organizations such as Toronto Waldorf School get help when needed?

---Sybille Hahn would like to extend an invitation to all those present to readings on Money, Economics and Threefolding which are taking place at Hesperus. Presenters include Richard Chomko, Alexandra Barbara Guenther. Starting with study of the ideas.

---Diana Hughes would like to remind people of the existence of the Anthroposophical Foundation. It has low profile, funds new anthroposophical initiatives. Typical amount of funding from Anthroposophical Foundation is in the region of \$1500. In answer to Mark, re larger organizations, there has been shift towards seeming lack of anthroposophy in organization of larger institutions, ie shifted from ‘horizontal’ to ‘vertical’ organization.

---Philip Thatcher is opposed to proxy vote; he was involved when proxy vote was removed from bylaw (1988), for reason that bylaw reflects way of working of Society in Canada: with consensus, and voting as ‘fallback’. A vote is the decision in the room at the time of meeting, proxy votes are ‘pre-made’ decisions. While Philip recognizes that to reinstate proxy vote might help enable quorum in smaller centres than Toronto, he asks that ASC hold to consensus. Jeffrey will do his research and share it with Council to freely make decision whether it makes sense, which will then go to Members for approval, before any change in bylaw can be made. Philip emphasizes that if Society goes

with proxy vote that we remain conscious of not falling back into old way of using proxies.

---Monique Walsh, re RSF question: if not a burden, why close it; it keeps domain open.

---Sybille Hahn, re RSF, supports the above with its breadth of mandate.

---Ingrid Belenson, RSF is provincial (Ontario) organization and limited; she looked into transferring it for Vidar, very complicated; it was easier to start afresh and go federal.

---Sybille Hahn, (RSF) one would need to investigate Act (federal or provincial) on charitable status carefully.

11. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Some discussion of manner of adjourning meeting according to new Act.

There being no further business, termination of meeting was proposed by Chris Wilson, seconded by Hans Rosch. Carried. Meeting terminated. 1 abstention

(Gabriela Freydank-Edelstein abstained on account of confusion around language of new Act as to what she was agreeing to. **note for 2016.*)

Foundation Stone Meditation (Sunday rhythm) was read in French by Judith King.

Judith King, Secretary
May 2015